105.2254_interviewfolder_1926.08.18_p1

JAMES F. MASON
ESSEX COUNTY DETECTIVE

Spent 31 days on the case under Mr. Mott in 1922. Heard Mrs. Gibson relate her story several times. He went to the scene of the ~~xkmx~~ crime with Schwartz, as a result of talks with Mrs. Gibson and to direct him what to do. He saw the cedar saplings with a small branch broken off and footprints of an unshod horse or mule. the prints seemed to be smaller than those of a horse, and some manure. His trip to the scene of the crime was prior to the grand jury investigation and neither he nor Schwartz testified. Mr. Dey, the Newark Police photographer, took some photographs but Mason never had them.

Mason was not allowed to tell what Mrs. Gibson told him she saw, nor to say whether Mrs. Gibson did or did not identify Mr. Harry Carpender or Mr. William Stevens. Mason was not allowed to say as to whether the State found the photographs important. Various measurements were taken at Phillips Farm under Mason's direction and, while he located the saplings from Briscoe's map, it was brought out that the map was inaccurate.

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JAMES F. MASON

August 18, 1926

County Detective, Essex County.

TESTIFIED (Page 645 et seq.):

County Detective for over twenty years in Prosecutor's office (645).

Did some investigation for Mr. Mott (646).

Saw Dr. Hall's shirt in Prosecutor Stricker's office but never saw cuff buttons or had shirt or cuff buttons in his possession (646).

Visited scene of crime and went to cedar saplings (646-7).

Saw unshod hoof prints of either horse or mule (647).

Prints smaller than those of a horse (647).

Also saw manure and a small branch broken off sapling (647).

Schwartz was with him (647).

Visited saplings as the result of talk of Mrs. Gibson's (648).

Photographs were taken by Mr. Day, Assistant Photographer Newark Police Headquarters, but does not think they were developed (648).

Never had photographs (649).

Worked on case thirty-one days (649).

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CROSS EXAMINATION:

Not allowed to answer question as to whether State found photographs important (649).

Neither Mason nor Schwartz testified before 1922 Grand Jury (650).

Went to scene with Schwartz to direct what he wanted done (650).

Had conversed with Mrs. Gibson at her home and went to scene to verify certain of her statements (650).

Heard Mrs. Gibson relate her story several times (651).

Mason not allowed to say what Mrs. Gibson told him she saw on September 14, 1922 (651-654).

Not allowed to say whether Mrs. Gibson did or did not identify Mr. Harry Carpender or Mr. William Stevens (654-56).

Located on Briscoe's Map offered in evidence saplings and stump though it was brought out that map was inaccurate in part (657-8).

Various measurements were taken at Phillips Farm under Mason's direction (659-660).

Would not say what the prints were he saw but admitted there had been a great crowd around the place (661).

Not allowed to say whether he attempted to re-enact the scene as told to him by Mrs. Gibson (661-3).

Was at scene with Schneider and made his observations prior

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to 1922 Grand Jury hearing, but did not testify (664).